

Appropriations Committee

February 28, 2023

Public Hearing on **H.B. 6659 An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2025, and Making Appropriations Therefor.**

Hello to morning Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Berthel, Representative Nuccio and members of the Appropriations Committee.

My name is Susan Maxwell. I am a registered voter and a participant of Mental Health Connecticut's Independence Center in Waterbury for the past 36 years.

I like going to the center because they help me with my issues and the staff are very, very good. Even when COVID hit, they provided services such as virtual workshops and staff checked in on us on a regular basis. The center delivered meals, food and other needed items to a lot of people and it was a big help.

Now they are open and we need more funding for this non-profit. Please fund our center because it is essential for people with mental illnesses to have a place to go to socialize, get help with personal goals and do things they never thought we could because we were told we couldn't. The center taught me to be more independent, go back to work, and advocate for mental health services. I have been able to help a lot of people along the way and it is a good feeling.

These services are still very valuable for those with mental health disorders that still need assistance or just some support. Please increase funds for our center since it is crucial for people to find the help they need. Thank you very much.